

SEAHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH & SANITARY

CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1969

J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Dr. J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector—

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Student Public Health Inspector—

T. PARKIN.

Clerk in Health Department—

Miss J. PARKER.

Rodent Operator—

T. S. TODD.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Seaham Urban District for the year 1969.

The work accomplished is divided into various sections, that relating to the sanitary circumstances has been compiled by the Senior Public Health Inspector, and the report dealing with public cleansing and street cleaning is submitted by the Engineer and Surveyor.

VITAL STATISTICS

Under this heading rates are given in order that a comparison may be made between the health and sanitary circumstances of the district over the years and the health of England and Wales as a whole.

Birth Rate :

There was a total of 327 births during the year, giving a birth rate of 13.19 per thousand of the population. This figure confirms the downward trend shown in recent years, and bearing in mind the fall in the estimated population of the town from 25,030 to 24,800 again suggests that those leaving are mainly in the younger age groups.

Death Rate :

There were 305 deaths during the year, representing a crude death rate of 12.3 per thousand of the population. When multiplied by the Registrar's comparability figure of 1.26 this gave a "corrected" death rate of 15.5 as against the national figure of 11.8. This again would suggest an ageing population.

Infant Mortality :

The infant mortality rate is easily the lowest on record. The figure of 12.23 per thousand live births compares very favourably with the national figure of 18.0.

Infectious Diseases :

There has again been a high incidence of measles and it was unfortunate that the vaccination scheme against this disease had to be suspended.

Tuberculosis shows a greater incidence, than in England and Wales, but a perusal of the details supplied within the body of the report will demonstrate that this was mainly confined to older age groups and in some cases represented re-notification of the disease.

Other infectious diseases, dysentery and food poisoning, etc., were minimal and does not call for comment.

Sanitary Conditions :

It has again been a difficult year for the inspectorate because of shortage of staff. Nevertheless, essentials have been maintained and environmental hygiene, rodent control, housing inspections, etc., have continued. Apart from one large scale investigation for food poisoning in a local bakery, which fortunately proved negative, there was no great call on the department for bacteriological investigations. I would like here to commend the management of the bakery concerned, which supplies food stuff not only in Seaham but also to a larger area outside, for the initiative shown in this investigation.

I would also like to thank the Public Health Laboratory Service in Sunderland for their ever willing co-operation when called upon.

Finally, may I once again record my thanks to the members and officers of the Council for their continued support during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. A. RODGERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Area in acres—2,469.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid 1969—
24,800.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1969) according to the Rate
Books—8,035.

Rateable Value—£611,907.

Sum represented by Penny Rate—£2,245.

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	302	150	152
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	25	15	10
Total	....	....	....	....	327	165	162

Birth Rate :

Legitimate	....	12.18	per 1,000	estimated	resident	population.
Illegitimate	....	1.01	..	..	..	..
Total	....	13.19	..	..	..	..

STILL BIRTHS

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	5	3	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	1	1	—
Total	....	....	....	....	6	4	2

STILL BIRTH RATE : 18.02 per thousand live and still births.

DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
305	181	124

DEATH RATE : 12.30 per 1,000 estimated resident population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths	Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	.... Nil	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths of infants under 1 year	4	1	3

Infant Mortality Rate—12.23 per 1,000 live births.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths of infants under 1 month	1	—	1

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate—3.06 per 1,000 live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS

Age	Sex	Cause
11 hours	F	Extreme Prematurity.
6 weeks	F	Broncho-Pneumonia.
3 months	F	Acute Broncho-Pneumonia.
5 months	M	Broncho-Pneumonia, Phenyl Ketonuria.

Mortality of Legitimate Infants : 13.25 per 1,000 legitimate live births.

Mortality of Illegitimate Infants : 40.00 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

Illegitimate births—percentage of live births : 7.64.

The causes of the greatest mortality during 1969 were :—

Cardio-Vascular Diseases	....	....	....	....	162
Cancer	....	....	....	....	52
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	23
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	21
Accidental deaths (inc. Motor Vehicle Accidents)	....	....	....	....	9

DEATHS DUE TO CANCER OF THE LUNG

Age (in years)							Male	Female
15—24	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
25—34	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
35—44	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
45—54	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
55—64	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
65—74	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
75 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
TOTAL (All Ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3

BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES IN THE YEAR 1969.
England & Wales and Seaham

	Rate per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
	Live Births	Still-Births	Deaths (all ages)	Deaths under 1 year	Maternal Deaths	Deaths under 1 mth.	Perinatal Mortality
England and Wales ...	16.3	13.0	11.8	18.0	0.19*	12.0	23.2
Seaham ...	13.19	18.02	12.3	12.23	Nil.	3.06	21.02

* Provisional figure from Registrar General for 1969.

**CORRECTED NOTIFICATIONS AND CASE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS
DISEASES IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1969**

	Quarter	Scarlet Fever	Infective Hepatitis	Typhoid fever	Para- typhoid fever	Acute pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	Dysentery	Acute Poliomyelitis		Food poisoning	Tuberculosis		
								Paralytic	Non- paralytic		Respirat'ry	Meninges and C.N.S.	Other
England and Wales	First	5,815	6,128	13	11	—	7,134	1	—	1,293	2,479	29	542
	Second	4,601	6,117	25	13	—	7,353	1	1	1,284	2,602	35	649
	Third	2,197	5,173	76	62	—	4,018	5	—	3,001	2,410	32	628
	Fourth	3,469	6,151	48	107	—	3,609	2	—	1,797	2,181	23	552
Total		16,082	23,569	162	193	—	21,514	9	1	7,375	9,672	119	2,371
Case Rate		0.329	0.483	0.0033	0.0040	Nil	0.441	0.00018	0.00002	0.151	0.198	0.0024	0.0486
Seaham	First	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
	Second	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
	Third	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	Fourth	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Total		5	10	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	17	—	—
Case Rate		0.202	0.403	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	0.081	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	0.69	Nil	Nil

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1950-1969

(The Birth Rate and Death Rate are shown corrected by the Registrar General's comparability factors of 0.99 and 1.26 respectively for 1969).

Year		Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
1950	...	25,990	19.12	10.65	42.25
1951	...	25,920	18.17	11.26	21.23
1952	...	25,660	17.73	10.65	26.03
1953	...	25,690	20.35	11.57	27.61
1954	...	25,650	18.64	12.30	20.70
1955	...	25,740	18.88	11.94	44.80
1956	...	25,940	19.39	12.57	27.56
1957	...	26,130	19.25	13.79	21.65
1958	...	26,320	20.80	14.16	25.32
1959	...	26,440	19.69	13.88	20.91
1960	...	26,410	18.07	13.75	20.20
1961	...	25,660	18.71	14.41	35.05
1962	...	25,630	19.12	15.07	22.22
1963	...	25,570	17.42	16.04	20.00
1964	...	25,470	17.90	12.86	15.10
1965	...	25,470	17.41	15.20	20.08
1966	...	25,330	14.79	14.25	25.87
1967	...	25,200	15.17	14.11	33.67
1968	...	25,030	14.71	15.11	16.13
1969	...	24,800	13.06	15.50	12.23

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE
DURING 1969

CAUSES OF DEATH	SEX	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Leukaemia	M	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ..	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	M	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Anaemias	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Hypertensive disease	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Ischaemic Heart disease	M	59	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	14	17	20	20
	F	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	8	16	16
Other forms of Heart disease	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3
	F	10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	7	7
Cerebrovascular disease	M	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	11	11
	F	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	8	8
Other diseases of Circulatory System ..	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6	6
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Influenza	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	M	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	4	2
	F	13	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	10	5
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Asthma	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of the Liver	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases of the Digestive System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Anomalies	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	M	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Suicide & Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL—ALL CAUSES	M	181	—	1	—	4	—	1	3	13	37	60	62
	F	124	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	9	15	30	66
GRAND TOTAL		305	1	3	—	4	—	2	3	22	52	90	128

Confirmed Cases of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases, 1969
(other than Tuberculosis)

Numbers originally notified.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery
Total (<i>all ages</i>)	5	3	196	2
Under 1 yr.	—	—	13	—
1-2 years	—	—	15	—
2-3 years	—	—	21	—
3-4 years	—	—	16	—
4-5 years	—	1	42	—
5-9 years	—	2	85	—
10-14 years	4	—	4	—
15-24 years	1	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	2
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
Total (<i>all ages</i>)	5	3	196	2

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the new cases and deaths for the Urban District of Seaham during 1969 :

Age Periods	NEW CASES				TOTAL DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 „ ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 „ ...	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64 „ ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals (all ages)	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION III

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH & TETANUS IMMUNISATION

DIPHTHERIA (Either singly or in combination)

Ages at Date of Immunisation	Under 1 1969	1 to 4 1965-1968	5 to 14 1955-1964	Total
Primary Immunisations ...	13	151	116	280
Reinforcing Injections	—	77	294	371

WHOOPING COUGH (Either singly or in combination)

Ages at Date of Immunisation	Under 1 1969	1 to 4 1965-1968	5 to 14 1955-1964	Total
Primary Immunisations ...	13	151	3	167
Reinforcing Injections	—	74	10	84

TETANUS (Either singly or in combination)

Ages at Date of Immunisation	Under 1 1969	1 to 4 1965-1968	5-14 1955-1964	Total
Primary Immunisations ...	13	151	144	308
Reinforcing Injections	—	77	311	388

MEASLES VACCINATION

Persons born in year :—	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962 to 1965	Others	Total
	—	11	27	17	21	91	167

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

There were no cases of smallpox in the District during 1969, and a table is given below showing the number and ages of children vaccinated during the year.

Ages at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Vaccinated	8	77	7	6	—	98
Re-vaccinated	—	—	—	—	—	—

B.C.G. VACCINATION—School Scheme (1969)

Total Skin Tested	Positive Reactors	Negative Reactors Given B.C.G.	No. absent at time of reading
388	30	330	26

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, 1969

ORAL

Those persons given a primary course of 3 doses of oral vaccine :—

Persons born in year:—	1969	1968	1967	1966	1948-65	1938-47	Others	Total
	6	141	15	5	101	—	2	270

In addition, 308 persons received a booster of oral vaccine.

SECTION IV

GENERAL :

Complaints and requests for the services of the health department staff received during the year numbered 503 compared with 580 for 1968. Details are as follows :—

Rats	118	Mice	116
Cockroaches	109	Bed Bugs	4
Other insect pests	38	Fumigations	7
Drains	105	Miscellaneous	6

Eighty-six stool specimens were collected and delivered to the Public Health Laboratory at Sunderland for bacteriological examination.

HOUSING :

Slum Clearance :

There was no clearance area represented to the Council this year under part three of the Housing Act, 1957, the slum clearance programme now being virtually completed.

Two dwellings were represented under part two of the Act as unfit for habitation and closing orders were made in each case. In addition six houses were demolished in clearance areas previously confirmed.

Houses Erected and Improved :

The number of houses erected in Seaham during 1969 was 26, 24 by the Council and 2 built privately.

Houses improved with the assistance of improvement grants are as follows :—

	No. of Houses	
	Discre- tionary Grants	Standard Grants
Applications submitted to L.A.	144	10
Applications rejected by L.A.	—	—
No. of applications approved since inception of the scheme	951	182
Total number of grants paid since inception of the scheme	772	173

House Repairs

Houses made fit during the year by procedure under the Housing and Public Health Acts were as follows :—

As a result of informal action	6
By owners as a result of a statutory notice	2
By the Council in default of the owners	2

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

(1) Food Premises

The number of food premises in the urban district at the end of 1969 was 171. This is a reduction of 12 retail food premises but for the first time the 22 licensed premises in the district are included.

Details of the various categories of food premises are as follows :—

Trade	No. of premises
Grocery—General	61
Butchery	12
Bakeries	11
Flour Confectionery	8
Sugar Confectionery	14
Fruiterer and Greengrocer	12
Fried Fish and Chips	10
Wet Fish	1
Cafes and Snack Bars	4
Canteens—Industrial	4
School Meals Kitchens	4
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	2
Chemists	5
Licensed Premises	22
Mineral Water Manufacturer	1
	<hr/>
	171

The number of inspections carried out during the year was 150.

(2) Fish and Chip Shops

There was no change in the number of shops retailing this popular food commodity in the urban district. Whilst the title fish and chip shop still remains, many of the shops do, in fact, now sell a wider range of foods such as meat pies, pasties, cooked chicken, peas and beans. The standard of cleanliness in all the shops is good but a number are structurally poor, and others were not constructed for the purpose, being too small for the amount of business transacted.

(3) Cafes and Snack Bars

Here again there was no change in the number of these establishments namely two cafes and three snack bars. As is often found in this type of business the working area, i.e. where the food is prepared and cooked, is rather cramped, but the standard of cleanliness is good.

(4) Canteens and School Kitchens

There are four industrial canteens and four school meals kitchens. The standard of hygiene in all these premises is very good.

(5) Mobile Shops

The number of mobile shops operating in the area have been considerably reduced since the two Co-operative Societies discontinued street trading. No inspections were carried out during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Not of The Nature, etc.

There were seven complaints during the year concerning foreign matter in food or otherwise unsatisfactory. Six of the complaints were dealt with informally and in the seventh legal proceedings were taken.

1. Currant scone containing a toffee wrapper.
This was taken up with the manufacturers who carried out a thorough investigation. The complainant did not wish legal proceedings to be taken.
2. Tin of Italian tomatoes found to contain a cockroach.
Being a foreign product this was taken up with the wholesaler and the importer.
3. Loaf of bread containing a piece of metal wire.
Complaint taken up with the manufacturers, who after investigation, could not offer an explanation as to how it may have got into the loaf.
4. Bottle of Lemonade having taste of paraffin oil.
Complaint taken up with the manufacturers who explained this was probably due to excess of a certain ingredient in the lemonade.
5. Packet of tea containing clusters of hair among the tea leaves.
The complaint was taken up with the manufacturers and the tea was analysed by the County Analyst. The manufacturers reported this to be "tea fluff" which was, in fact, fine particles of tea clustered together. This tended to accumulate around the automatic weighing equipment and sometimes a little fell into a packet. This "fluff" was not in any way harmful and, as explained was actually beneficial, because the clusters contained the full body and strength of the tea. The County Analyst reported on similar lines and stated "the material is not foreign to tea since it is actually part of the tea leaf, but it is unusual to find it in the finished product in this way".

6. Four small apple tarts containing mould.
Complaint taken up with the manufacturer who was also the retailer on the proper rotation of stock. The complainant in this case did not wish legal proceedings to be taken.
7. Meat pie containing a fly.
Legal proceedings were taken in this case. The manufacturer, who also was the retailer, pleaded "guilty" to the offence, and was fined five pounds, with three pounds costs, and one pound nineteen shillings and sixpence witnesses expenses.

Registered Premises

The number of premises registered under sections 16 to 18 of the Food and Drugs Act at the end of the year was 70, made up as follows :—

For the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream	2
For the sale of ice-cream	54
For the manufacture of sausages, etc.	14

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of general inspections carried out and an analysis of contraventions found during the course of inspection are as follows :—

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises—	Number of premises newly registered during the year	No. of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
Offices	—	23	10
Retail Shops	3	121	90
Wholesale shops, Warehouses ...	—	1	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	21	7
Fuel Storage Depots ...	—	—	—
Totals	3	166	107

Analysis of Contraventions :

Section	4—Cleanliness	2
„	5—Overcrowding	—
„	6—Temperature	6
„	7—Ventilation	—
„	8—Lighting	1
„	9—Sanitary Conveniences	7
„	10—Washing Facilities	6
„	11—Supply of Drinking Water	1
„	12—Accommodation for Clothing	2
„	13—Sitting Facilities	—
„	14—Seats for Sedentary Workers	—
„	15—Eating Facilities	1
„	16—Floors, passages and stairs	—
„	17—Fencing of exposed parts of machinery	—
„	18—Protection of young persons	—
„	19—Training of persons working at dangerous Machinery	—
„	23—Prohibition of heavy work	—
„	24—First-aid General Provisions	6
„	50—Abstract of the Act not exhibited	7

Section 48—Accidents :

There were three accidents reported during the year, two of which were of a minor nature, but the third does reveal the danger of leaving trap doors in floors open and unfenced. In this case the manager of a public house was clearing up after closing time when he accidentally fell through the trap door into the cellar, where he had been working prior to closing time, and had forgotten to close it. As a result he sustained injuries to his ribs.

Exemptions :

No applications for exemption under the Act were made.

Water Supply :

All water in the Urban District is supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. The water appears to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity and no complaints were received during the year. Most of the premises in the district have an internal supply apart from a few houses in the harbour area where the standpipe in the yard still exists.

Swimming Baths :

There are no public swimming baths in the urban district, the only facilities available being to members of the Seaham Harbour Swimming Club and at Dawdon Colliery. There is also a swimming bath at the Northlea Grammar Technical School to which members of the public are admitted at certain times.

Rivers and Streams :

There are two main streams in the district which flow through Dawdon Dene and Seaham Dene, before discharging into the sea. No complaints of flooding or nuisance was reported during the year.

Clean Air Acts, 1956/68 :

The provisions of these Acts have not yet been implemented by the Council. Consideration was given to the making of a smoke control area during the year but because of the uncertainty in the supply of solid smokeless fuels consideration was deferred.

Common Lodging Houses :

There are no common lodging houses in the Urban District.

Pet Animals Act, 1951 :

Only one pet shop is licensed under this Act and conforms satisfactorily to the requirements of the Act.

Factories :

The number of factories registered at the end of the year was 40 showing an increase of 2 on the previous year. Notifications received from H.M. Inspector of Factories were attended to. Details of inspections, etc., are given in a table at the end of the report.

RODENT CONTROL, DISINFESTATION & DISINFECTION SERVICE.

As stated in previous reports this is one of the lesser but equally

important services carried out by the Health Department for the control of rats and mice together with the eradication of insect pests, and fumigations.

RODENT CONTROL

Surface Infestations :

Complaints regarding rats and mice received during the year were as follows :—

Rats	Mice	Total
119	114	233

Of this total 19 complaints of rats were unfounded.

In the course of survey, additional properties were inspected as follows :—

Rats	Mice	Total
8	10	18

Of this total 3 concerning rats and 2 for mice were unfounded.

The total number of inspections including re-inspections carried out during the year was 529.

It is felt that the number of complaints of rats could be considerably reduced if certain well-meaning persons would stop the practice of throwing out bread and other food with the object of feeding the birds, but who do not realise that this food is also attractive to rats. This has, in a number of instances, been found to be the cause of rat infestations when complaints have been investigated.

Sewer Maintenance Treatments :

A general treatment of baiting the sewer manholes was carried out in the months of May and June. A total number of one hundred and twelve manholes were baited, but only three partial takes were recorded. There was a follow-up treatment of the three manholes affected but no further bait was taken.

A treatment of the sewers which would normally have been carried out in October or November was not done this year due to the indisposition of the rodent operator.

Insect Pests :

The following complaints and requests for assistance in the eradication of insect pests were dealt with by the department as follows :—

Cockroaches	95	Woodlice	15
Bed Bugs	4	Clover Mite	3
Ants	2	Moths	1
Silverfish	3	Earwigs	7
Snails	5	Wasps	4

In addition nine houses were fumigated at the request of the tenants.

SECTION V

REFUSE DISPOSAL, SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND STREET CLEANSING

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following information on the above matters which are under his control.

Sewage Disposal.

No treatment is carried out to the sewage which, after collection, is discharged direct to the sea from three main outfalls.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collection is carried out by direct labour using specially constructed vehicles. Disposal is by controlled tipping on sites leased to the Council. During the year 7,844 tons of house and trade refuse were collected and disposed of, together with 90 tons of waste-paper.

Street Cleansing.

During the year 10,305 gullies were cleansed and flushed on U.D.C. highways.

A mechanical roadsweeper and pedestrian controlled barrow are used for the cleansing of roads and streets.

SECTION VI

SEAHAM RIPARIAN HEALTH AUTHORITY

The amount of shipping entering the district during the year was as follows :—

	Number	Nett Register Tonnage
Foreign Ports	12	5,585
Home Ports	459	332,194
TOTAL	471	337,779

The principal import continues to be timber, and the principal exports coal, spent-oxide, moulding sand and agricultural limestone. No passengers were carried on ships entering the port during the year, and no cases of infectious disease were notified.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	4	2	—		—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	21	—		—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—		—
TOTAL ..	40	23	—		—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL...	—	—	—	—	—

There are no outworkers in the Urban District.

